

Animal Resources Team Newsletter

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Editor

That Was Then, This Is Now

(by Kerry Taylor)

In response to the NRC Guide, and as mandated by DHHS, every IC has completed their first Disaster Recovery Plan. However, it should be no surprise that such plans are designed to be "living documents," to be updated accordingly whenever facilities are modified and personnel changes occur. Such changes are the norm at the NIH, so we encourage each IC to review their current Disaster Recovery Plan and make those changes now. When you do the review, take the time to ensure you and your fellow employees are aware of what the NIH Continuity of Operations Plan is all about, and what as individuals you should know regarding personal responsibilities during an emergency or disaster. As a first step, let's recap how we're organized to respond to a disaster at the NIH.

Organizationally speaking, the NIH responds to disasters through the use of the Incident Command System. When a disaster strikes, the Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) and various supporting component report to the NIH Command Center (CC) located at the B-4 level of Building 31. The DRC coordinates appropriate actions with the disaster on-scene commander via these supporting components, which would likely include the NIH Fire and Police Departments, and if animals are affected, the NIH Animal Resources Team (NIH ART). Correspondingly, each IC has already identified individuals within their own animal program, designated as the IC Animal Resources Team (IC ART). One of these individuals would contact the DRC to ask for assistance and coordinate animal recovery activity whenever a disaster affecting their facility exceeds the capacity of the owning IC.

The above example does not attempt to answer all the nuances inherent in such a complex chain of events. Disasters are individual happenings, and must therefore be handled on a case-by-case basis. However, the single

most important element of any disaster is the IC's capability to adequately respond with knowledgeable personnel. Since disasters are by definition rare events, adequate preparation and training cannot be overemphasized. Take the opportunity now, while reviewing your IC Disaster Recovery Plan, to reacquaint yourself with the concepts of the NIH COOP, the IC ART and expected individual responsibilities. For further information, contact any member of the NIH **Disaster Recovery Animal Advisory Committee** listed below:

Bartlett, Doreen	NICHD	2-0947
Cisar, Alphie	VRP/PSP	6-9416
Earnheart, Carrie	FDA/CBER	7-1848
Fiedler, Lynette	NINDS	6-9354
Fisher, Brad	NCI	6-5246
Prevost, Kelly	VRP	6-9201
Rauschenberg, Mary	VRP	2-0456
Rhodes, Lowery	NCI	6-5854
Fredericks, Liz	NEI	2-4668
Schech, Mat	NICHD	2-0947
Schaad, Linda	VRP	4-7629
St. Clair, Mark	NIDDK	6-4860
Taylor, Kerry (Chair)	OACU	6-5424

DISASTER RESPONSE PLANS

Summer is fast approaching, and if we experience the typical heat and humidity for this area, we may experience HVAC problems that could jeopardize the health of animals in our facilities. Are you prepared? Does your IC Disaster Recovery Plan have appropriate points of contact for DES? Do you know where to obtain portable air conditioning units if necessary? Does the health status of your animals allow transfer to other rooms and/or facilities? Dealing with such problems when they arise can be greatly facilitated if you plan ahead, review the plans, and ensure appropriate

personnel know what to do when they are actually faced with the adverse situation.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS QUIZ

(by Kelly Prevost)

Define the following acronyms:

1. NIH COOP
2. ART
3. DPS
4. PIO
5. OEC
6. HST

Answers to the Disaster Preparedness Quiz in the March 2000 issues:

1. What steps should be taken if an unauthorized person attempts to enter your facility? **Secure the facility and call the campus police – 911.**
 2. In the event of a natural gas leak or gas spill: Do not use any electrical switches or sockets, locate the origin, shut off appropriate valves if possible, then what? **Call maintenance (108) and report an animal facility emergency. In the event you are unable to locate the leak, call 911 and evacuate all personnel from the building.**
 3. By definition, what is considered an emergency? **Any unexpected situation which requires prompt action to protect life and property.**
 4. In the event of an ethylene oxide spill, what steps should be taken? **Avoid contact with ethylene oxide. If in contact, follow first aid treatments and go to OMS for further medical evaluation. Evacuate personnel from affected area. Close doors and post a warning on outside of room(s). Notify the NIH Fire Department and report to supervisor.**
 5. Where is your facility's Disaster Recovery Plan located and have you reviewed it? **Depends on specific facility and your level of training (and interest).**
 6. What evacuation route should you follow in an emergency situation? **Depends on specific facility, and hopefully, you know the evacuation route.**
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SAFETY IN THE CAGE WASH AREA

(by Mark St. Clair)

In an animal facility, the cage wash area has several potential hazards to personnel. These hazards are increased noise levels, bedding hazards (biohazards, chemical, radiation, and allergen exposures), slipping on wet floors, hot steam, and injury caused by equipment. Your IC safety program should be consistent with federal, state, and local regulations and should focus on maintaining a safe and healthy work place.

Personnel working in a cage wash area should be trained on zoonoses, chemical safety, biohazards, physical hazards, equipment hazards, waste bedding handling, and personal protective clothing. The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) information center should be current. Equipment and supplies that should be available for personnel include safety glasses, protective clothing, masks, hearing protection, safety shoes, shoe covers, and gloves.

Areas often overlooked in a cage wash area are facility design, equipment design and maintenance, and procedures. Proper facility design, equipment selection, and procedure development provides for an ergonomically sound operation that reduces the potential for physical injury to personnel.

One area often overlooked is proper storage of cage wash chemicals. To Meet EPA (40 CFR 264.175) requirements for secondary containment of chemicals, the chemical spill container must be large enough to contain the spill. A secondary container that holds 5 gallons is not adequate for a 30-gallon drum. Several chemical drums can be placed on one chemical spill platform if the chemical spill platform capacity is at least as large as the largest drum on the platform.

SITUATION / SCENARIO

(By Lynette Fiedler)

You are returning from a meeting and as you approach your office you notice that the NIH Police have cordoned off the 14 Complex and several other facilities because Building 28 was bombed. It appears that all personnel have been evacuated because the presence of another bomb is suspected. You have animal facilities within the restricted areas. What would you do?

SITUATION / SCENARIO in the March 2000 issue: The HVAC system in a facility with ventilated rodent racks was down. Response: With no exhaust to the ventilated racks the rodent cages should be considered static caging. They should be treated like conventional cages in that they should be changed more frequently (at least twice per week) as the ammonia levels would be higher due to lack of air flow through the cages. Temperature and humidity in the room may not be severely affected, but the temperature in the cages may be slightly higher due to the decreased air flow in the cages. to help with this problem, the cage density should be decreased.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

(by Dusty Rhodes)

Our role as animal care providers at the NIH requires us to plan disposition of animals under our responsibility should a disaster happen. Many of us are pet owners and have most likely not considered disposition of our pets in a disaster situation. EARS (Emergency Animal Rescue Service) recently held their 2nd annual Animal Disaster Preparedness Day, which is a nation-wide event to remind people that disaster pose a life-threatening danger for animals, too. They stress the importance of the family pets to be included in family disaster planning. EARS is the disaster relief program of the Sacramento-based United Animal Nations (UAN).

EARS volunteers have helped rescue and care for animals in more than 45 disaster, including last year's Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina, the Oklahoma City tornadoes in 1999, and several other disasters during recent years.

EARS distributes free disaster preparedness information kits to animal caregivers. The kits include general disaster preparedness tips as well as disaster "shopping lists" for cats, dogs, birds, and horses with the supplies needed to care for these animals during disasters.

A free disaster preparedness information kit can be obtained by contacting UAN, P.O. Box 188890, Sacramento, CA 95818, ph 916-429-2457, e-mail: info@uan.org or visit their web site at www.uan.org.

RESOURCES

Books:

- Animal Management in Disasters – Dr. Sebastian E. Heath. Available from www.mosby.com.
- AVMA Emergency Preparedness and Response Guide – available from the AVMA, 1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360.
- Emergency Response Contacts Directory – John H. Anderson, D.V.M. Available from VECCS Administrative Office, 6335 Camp Bullis, Road, Suite 23, San Antonio, TX 78257.

Websites:

- American Academy on Veterinary Disaster Medicine
www.cvmb.colostate.edu/clinsci/wing/aavdm/aavdm.htm
- American Humane Association (AHA)
www.americanhumane.org
- American Red Cross (ARC)
www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/pets.html
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
www.avma.org
- Animal Disaster Planning Advisory Committee (ADPAC)
www.fl-adpac.org
- Animals in Disasters
www.animaldisasters.com
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
www.fema.gov/fema/anemer.htm
- Horse Review
www.horsereview.net
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
www.hsus.org
- United Animal Nations Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS)
www.uan.org
- World Animal Net (WAN)
www.worldanimal.net

***HAVE A WONDERFUL,
FUN,
SAFE SUMMER !!!***